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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Washington, DC) – On Wednesday, Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez will be honored at the 24th Annual Hispanic Heritage Awards ceremony held at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC. The <u>glitzy ceremony</u> will feature musical performances and celebrity appearances, including film and TV actress, America Ferrera.

Rep. Gutierrez is receiving the Foundation's "Leadership Award," which was awarded last year to Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ).

"I am humbled by the honor and to join those who have gone before me," Rep. Gutierrez said. "Fighting for immigration reform and fair treatment of America's working families is as hard a job as it has ever been. When you see how unpopular the U.S. Congress is and when you read the hate mail my office gets every day from the vocal minority in the anti-immigrant and anti-Latino crowd, it's nice to get a little recognition and be with people who appreciate what we are trying to do to make America better, more welcoming, and more just."

In a <u>press release</u>, Jose Antonio Tijerino, President and CEO of Hispanic Heritage Foundation (HHF), said "More than ever, it is important for HHF, our partners and sponsors to promote the accomplishments and contributions of Latinos, which will help America move forward." According to the event's organizers, "The Hispanic Heritage Awards are considered the highest honor for Latinos by Latinos and what makes the program unique is how cultural superstars stand alongside physicians, educators, public officials, community and business leaders, and even young leaders, in celebration of their achievements."

